Locality/Agency:

Virginia Port Authority Police

Current Communications System:

A voice system that will migrate to the Statewide Agencies Radio System (STARS) in early 2007.

Importance of Common Language:

STARS serves 21 state agencies and aspires to connect with and be able to talk to all participating agencies and localities across the state as needed.

Triggering Event:

The Port Authority chose to endorse common language and migrate in tandem with the Virginia State Police.

Contact: Captain Mike Brewer, mbrewer@portofvirginia.com, (757) 683-2191

Common Language Migration – Virginia Port Authority

The Virginia Port Authority Police Department is located in South Hampton Area and supports three ports and one inland port. The Department works 24 hours a day to police the ports, operating as a state agency to ensure the effective flow of commerce, container security, and public safety.

The migration to common language was a logical move for the Department. To be compliant with National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements for plain language and align with the statewide effort, the Authority chose to migrate in tandem with Virginia State Police.

A few codes will be maintained at this time for radiation portal monitoring, however, these codes will no longer be necessary once the radiation portals change ownership to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in 2007.

Of the Department's nearly 100 codes, approximately 30 were being used in day-to-day operations prior to the migration to common language.

Task	Status	Tools Available*
Announce move to common language	Sent a memo indicating the common language migration will begin on November 1, 2006	Memo
Implementation through day-to-day usage and lessons learned collection	Because the Department is a relatively small force, the transition to common language will happen through day to day usage of the protocol including the coded language designated by the statewide interoperability effort.	

* Tools may be provided upon request from the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office at (804) 692-0137